

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A process to prepare nanostructured materials comprising the steps of:
 - generating a plasma ~~with an apparatus comprising an anodic column and a cathodic column;~~
 - introducing an oxidizing gas into the plasma;
 - injecting a precursor material into the plasma through at least one of ~~the~~ a current carrying region of an anodic column and a current carrying region of a cathodic column ~~columns;~~ and
 - recovering the nanostructured material.
3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the step of injecting ~~injection step~~ comprises injecting the precursor material into the current carrying region of the cathodic column through forced convection.
4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim [[2]] 7, wherein the step of ~~forming~~ introducing comprises introducing the oxidizing gas into [[an]] the current carrying region of the anodic column of [[a]] the transferred electric arc.
5. (Currently Amended) The process of claim [[2]] 8, wherein the step of ~~forming~~ introducing comprises introducing the oxidizing gas into [[an]] the current carrying region of the anodic column of [[a]] the free-burning electric arc.

6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, further comprising injecting at least one of a quench and dilution stream into the plasma.

7. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the plasma is generated by a transferred electric arc.

8. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the plasma is generated by a free-burning electric arc.